



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/604,459	07/23/2003	Alan E. Stein	ITW7510.054	1458
33647	7590	03/24/2005	EXAMINER	
ZIOLKOWSKI PATENT SOLUTIONS GROUP, SC (ITW) 14135 NORTH CEDARBURG ROAD MEQUON, WI 53097			KERNS, KEVIN P	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1725	
DATE MAILED: 03/24/2005				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/604,459

Applicant(s)

STEIN ET AL.

Examiner

Kevin P. Kerns

Art Unit

1725

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 July 2003 and 08 September 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 24-43 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 24-43 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 31 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 23 July 2003 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 10/9/03.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they do not include the following reference sign(s) mentioned in the description: "11" (should be labeled in Figure 2). Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

2. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they include the following reference character(s) not mentioned in the description: "102a", "102b", "104a", "114a", and "114b" (see Figure 4). Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d), or amendment to the specification to add the reference character(s) in the description in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(b) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. Each

drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

3. The drawings are objected to because "104B" should be changed to "104b" in Figure 4. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

4. The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because a comma should be added after "component" in the 5th line. Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).
5. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: in paragraph [0018], 7th line, "12" should be changed to "16" after "base". In paragraph [0022], 1st line, "44" should be added after "system". In paragraph [0026], 2nd line from the end, "76" should be changed to "74". Throughout paragraph [0027], several of the drawing reference numbers are labeled incorrectly. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Objections

6. Claim 31 is objected to because of the following informalities: in the 2nd line, "welder" should be changed to "welding". Appropriate correction is required.

Double Patenting

7. The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and, *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

Art Unit: 1725

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

8. Claims 24-43 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-23 of copending Application No. 10/605,546. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because the claims include at least the following common features: a welding torch configured to present an electrode to a weld; an enclosure (welder housing); a power conditioner (power source/supply) disposed within the enclosure; a cooling system having a coolant tank and a spout disposed within the enclosure to circulate coolant through the welding torch/component via coolant hoses (providing supply and return paths for the coolant); a controller operable to control the cooling system and power conditioner; a means to automatically commence coolant circulation through the torch when the electrode is presented to the weld; a means to maintain coolant circulation until expiration of a specific time period and until a temperature falls below a certain value; a heat exchanger and water pump assembly; and at least one check valve integrated with the cooling system. One of ordinary skill in the art would have recognized that the welder enclosure defined by a base plate, a pair of side plates, a pair of end plates, and a top cover would also be present for the welding-type system of copending Application No. 10/605,546, as it is necessary for the internal components of the welder to be accessible for repairs.

This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection because the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

9. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

10. Claims 24-43 are rejected (as best interpreted without a complete translation of the French text) under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Prunier (FR 2 536 320).

Prunier discloses an arc welding machine that includes a refrigeration unit for torch cooling, in which the welding machine further includes a welding torch configured to present an electrode to a weld; an enclosure (welder housing) with a base plate, side plates, end plates, and a top cover; a power conditioner (power source/supply) disposed within the enclosure; a cooling system having a coolant tank and a spout disposed within the enclosure to circulate coolant through the welding torch/component via coolant hoses (providing supply and return paths for the coolant); a controller operable to control the cooling system and power conditioner; a means to automatically commence coolant circulation through the torch when the electrode is presented to the weld; a means to maintain coolant circulation until expiration of a specific time period and until a temperature falls below a certain value; a heat exchanger and water pump

Art Unit: 1725

assembly; and at least one check valve integrated with the cooling system (abstract; French text of specification and claims; and Figure).

11. Claims 24-43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Srba (US 4,942,281).

Srba discloses multi-torch interface assembly for inert gas TIG welding, in which the welding machine further includes multiple welding torches configured to present an electrode to a weld; an enclosure (welder housing) with a base plate, side plates, end plates, and a top cover; a power conditioner (power source/supply) disposed within the enclosure; a cooling system having a coolant tank (manifold) and a spout disposed within the enclosure to circulate coolant through the welding torch/component via coolant hoses (providing supply and return paths for the coolant); a controller operable to control the cooling system and power conditioner; a means to automatically commence coolant circulation through the torch when the electrode is presented to the weld; a means to maintain coolant circulation until expiration of a specific time period and until a temperature falls below a certain value; a heat exchanger and water pump assembly; and at least one check valve integrated with the cooling system (abstract; column 2, line 42 through column 4, line 61; column 5, line 35 through column 10, line 47; and Figures 1-6).

Conclusion

12. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The Burkhardt et al. and Young references are also cited in PTO-892.

13. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dr. Kevin P. Kerns whose telephone number is (571) 272-1178. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:00am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tom Dunn can be reached on (571) 272-1171. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Kevin P. Kerns *Kevin Kerns 3/19/05*
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1725

KPK
kpk
March 19, 2005